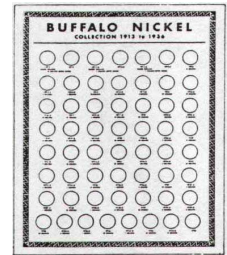


Coin Board News

Number 15 — July 2010



MARKET ACTIVITY The challenge of recruiting new collectors of coin boards continues. The most common remark I receive from people who've just discovered my book or website is that they simply never see coin boards in the course of their hobby activities. It's true that coin boards have never been common except in their own time which, as we well know, was many decades ago. Hunting them down today requires some legwork, which is becoming increasingly uncommon in this age of internet shopping. I've spent years haunting dusty old coin shops, and now that I seldom have the time to do that I simply make it known to coin dealers that I'm a buyer of old boards and albums. I attend a lot of coin shows on behalf of my employer, and this means that boards are more likely to come to me than me to them. In this respect I must take some of the blame for the apparent scarcity of coin boards in the marketplace, though there are still many dealers who've never heard of me or my interest. There remains the opportunity to make contacts of your own by reaching out to some of these less traveled dealers.

I did make a couple of excellent coin board purchases during the recent Central States show in Milwaukee. The upper Midwest has always been coin board central, as it was there that this product was invented and first marketed in the 1930s. Though I didn't acquire any duplicates of great rarities, and nearly all of my purchases were Whitman boards, I did secure a couple dozen pieces of superior condition which comprise the last remnants of the great Chicago Hoard. Some of these have already been placed with my want list customers, and the remainder appear on Price List #115. I received a satisfying response to my last list, which included some first generation Whitman coin folders. I've repeated this offering, which this time includes a very scarce type collecting kit from the early 1940s. Until my book on coin folders and albums is published, these pioneer items will remain quite affordable.

The number of coin board listings on eBay declined during the past quarter. Nothing rare or choice was listed during that time, though a number of bargains were to be had among the more common boards. As per usual, there were several partial coin sets mounted in old boards, and the value placed upon the boards themselves is always hard to gauge under these circumstances. Only occasionally have I bought a coin set to obtain the board, a notable instance being the Earl & Koehler board that I described in my last newsletter. Another good example is the David J. Malloy variety of the Lincoln Printing Company board for Lincoln Cents which appears framed in my book. This included an original collection of pennies assembled at the time of the board's issue and lacking only 1909-S VDB and 1914-D to be complete. So fragile is the backing on Lincoln Printing boards and so rare this title that I didn't even attempt to remove the coins. I consider the board itself to be worth at least as much as the coins.

BOOK UPDATES There have been two significant discoveries since the last newsletter. By far the most exciting is the appearance of two additional examples of Kent variety K1¢BP, hitherto thought to be merely a prototype submitted by J. K. Post for copyright of the coin board concept. Both of these newly found boards are identical to the formerly unique specimen held by a member of the Kent Family, but they lack the rubber-stamped copyright number illustrated in my book. Indeed, they appear to have once held coins, indicating that they were sold by the Kent Company to customers. Though I will retain the prototype designation for now, it is likely that this variety comprised the true First Edition, albeit an extremely brief one. An illustration of K1¢BP accompanies the email edition of this newsletter.

Under normal conditions the second discovery of this past quarter would be big news, but its significance is diminished just a bit by the above development. Most of the First Edition Whitman boards are known in three major varieties—with an illustrated masthead, with a text-only masthead replacing the illustrated one, and in transitional form with a text-only strip pasted over the illustrated masthead. Until now the Mercury Dime board was known in the transitional variety only with a green backing (W10¢D1c), but one having a red backing has now surfaced. This new variety, labeled W10¢D1a.3, is identical to W10cD1a.2 aside from the addition of the pasteover.

ON THE ROAD AGAIN I'll be manning the NGC booth at the Summer FUN show in Orlando July 8-10, the ANA World's Fair of Money in Boston August 10-14, the Coin & Collectibles Expo in Long Beach September 23-25 and the Whitman Philadelphia Expo September 30-October 2. If you're going to any of these shows, please stop by to chat about coin boards.

I'm also planning to attend the Old Mint Coin Show in San Francisco September 17-18, though I'll just be walking around and won't be at a table. This wonderful old structure means a lot to me, as I used to visit it frequently during lunch hours in my former career and bought most of my U. S. Mint products there in person when it served as a museum and gift shop. I performed much of the research for my early books in the Old Mint's library, and I served on the committee to preserve and re-open the museum following its 1993 closure. This was interrupted only by my relocation to New Jersey when I was recruited by NGC a year later.

Dave

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LINCOLN PENNY COLLECTOR

FILL ME IF YOU CAN

Patent applied for.

Copyrighted

1909 27-V.D.B.	1909 12-V.D.B.-S		1917 196	1917 33-S	1917 55-D	1926 167	1926 5-S	1926 28-D
1909 72	1909 2-S		1918 258	1918 37-S	1918 48-D	1927 144	1927 14-S	1927 27-D
1910 146	1910 6-S		1919 392	1919 140-S	1919 57-D	1928 134	1928 17-S	1928 31-D
1911 101	1911 4-S	1911 12-D	1920 310	1920 46-S	1920 49-D	1929 185	1929 80-S	1929 42-D
1912 88	1912 4-S	1912 16-D	1921 39	1921 7-S	1921 19-D	1930 157	1930 24-S	1930 40-D
1913 76	1913 6-S	1913 16-D	1922		1922 7-D	1931 19	1931 34-S	1931 4-D
1914 73	1914 4-S	1914 1-D	1923 74	1923 9-S		1932 9		1932 10-D
1915 29	1915 4-S	1915 22-D	1924 75	1924 12-S	1924 4-D	1933	1933 S	1933 D
1916 131	1916 22-S	1916 36-D	1925 140	1925 26-S	1925 22-D	1934	1934 S	1934 D

The idea is to collect a complete set of pennies in the best available condition.

The numbers under the dates on the card indicate the approximate millions coined each year at each mint.

"S" below the date on the penny indicates San Francisco mint—"D", Denver—No mint mark, Philadelphia.

Victor D. Brenner designed the penny; his initials on the bottom edge of the tail in 1909 only, were removed.

There are some pennies dated 1922 without mint mark in circulation though Phila. claims to have made none.

Clean your specimens with a soft eraser or a little vinegar before placing them in the board.

KENT CO. - COIN CARD - NEENAH, WIS.